

The Holiness of God

Part 2

John 17:14-19

The word **sanctification** and **holiness** are the same word. To be holy or sanctified means to be “**set apart**...”

Two Primary Thoughts:

- Divinely sacred – set apart for the purposes of God
Holy, Saint, Sanctification = a state of being; used of Both Deity and the Believer
- Morally clean – set apart from the sinful ways of man
Hallow, Sanctify = to make holy

Common Misunderstanding

Sanctification does not mean “**to be made perfect**”
The term applies to all three members of the Godhead:
Lev. 11:44-45; John 10:36; I Cor. 6:19-20
Israel sanctified themselves to do evil – Isa. 66:17
Unbelievers can be sanctified – I Cor. 7:14

Consider four aspects of Sanctification

(Bill MacDonald, BeHoly, published by John Ritchie; 3rd Edition, 2002)

- Pre-conversion sanctification
- Positional sanctification
- Progressive sanctification
- Perfect sanctification

Pre-conversion sanctification

- 2 Thes. 2:13 “chosen you to salvation”
“through sanctification of the Spirit”
“and belief of the truth”
- 1 Peter 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God...”
“through sanctification of the Spirit”
“unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.”

In both passages, sanctification by the Spirit comes before obedience to the truth and the work of the blood of Christ.

Bordering on the topic of election, not our topic and not for us to fully understand – it is a mystery we’ll leave here.

Positional Sanctification

This occurs at Salvation, placed into Christ – I Cor. 1:2
This is not conditional on the level of spirituality - I Cor. 3:1
Sanctified believers are exhorted to be Holy – 1 Pet. 1:13-16

A child once described a “saint” as a dead Christian. On the contrary; all living believers are saints – Phil. 1:1

Our positional sanctification rests in the person we are placed in: “accepted in the Beloved. Eph. 1:6

Progressive or Practical Sanctification

This is where the scriptures exhorts believers to be holy
It is always practical in relationship to our walk apart from sin.

- John 17:17 - sanctified by God’s truth – God’s Word
- 2 Cor. 7:1 - cleansing the flesh in the fear of God
- 1 Pet. 1:15 - continuing progress of our behavior

This process will make us different from our worldly culture.

Problem: Christian don’t want to be too different; Christianity calls upon us to become radically different.

Two sliding scales of worldly conduct.

God had the same expectation for the Nation of Israel – Num. 23:9
God gave them examples of separation in everyday life:

- Lev. 19:19 - not to sow a field with mixed seed
- not to cross breed their cattle
- not to wear clothing of wool and linen
- Deut. 22:10 - not to plow with ox and donkey yoked

All of the above is not wrong by most standards, but God wanted them different; Israel didn’t want to be different. 1 Sam. 8:5,20

God has the same plan for the Church; yet the Church doesn't want to be different; Christian Rock music, Christian tattoo parlors, Christian Social Events with Alcoholic intoxication, etc. James 4:4

Next lesson: The teaching of Scripture for practical holiness that God desires to see in each of His children. The characteristics of Christ-likeness.

Practical Holiness is a state of being; not a work or performance of doing. We could be "doing" all the right things and be very proud of it.

Practical Holiness is the state of Godliness, in which you are in fellowship with God and filled with the Holy Spirit. Sin interferes with this fellowship and filling.

Practical Holiness is the work of God within us, changing us into the likeness of His Son. The process can only be sustained by a sensitivity to sin and immediate confession for cleansing. This is supported by a brokenness of spirit in genuine humility and a continued awareness of God's presence

Fourfold Key to Practical Holiness:

1. Broken spirit = humility of heart, denial of the selfish "I"
2. Sensitivity to sin = that which is contrary to Christ-likeness
3. Immediate repentance and confession for cleansing.
4. Restoration and renewed fellowship with God

Perfect Sanctification

This takes place in the future – never reached fully on earth.

This is not a process but an instant transformation – 1 John 3:1-2

We will be like Christ in that we will be morally perfect – w/o sin.

Col. 1:21-22 - Christ will present us Holy to His Father
Jude 24 - Christ will present us faultless in His glory

Eph. 5:25-27 See the aspects of Sanctification

- v. 25 - Pre-conversion and Positional Sanctification
- v. 26 - Progress Sanctification
- v. 27 - Perfect Sanctification

How all this works out in the will and purposes of God is a great mystery – v. 32; Rom. 11:33-36

Where does the responsibility lie for our Sanctification?

Positional sanctification – All of God –

Practical sanctification:

- Purpose of the Individual - Rom. 6:19; Phil. 2:12
- Power of the Holy Spirit - Rom. 8:12-14; Gal. 5:16-17
- Process of a Gracious Savior - Phil. 2:13; 1:6-7; Eph. 5:26-27

**We have no excuse for not living a holy life;
but there is a reason why we don't;
the sinful and selfish desires of our fallen nature.**

God's Big Picture Plan – John 17:20-23